

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1190

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4467

EXDIS

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 2-10,
1976

1. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT INFORMED ME TODAY (SEPTEMBER 22, 1976) THAT PRESIDENT SOMOZA INTENDS TO MAKE AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, DEPARTING NICARAGUA OCTOBER 2, AND RETURNING OCTOBER 10.

2. SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION FOR SOMOZA WILL NOT BE REQUIRED AND A LETTER OF DECLAMATION TO THAT EFFECT WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE NEXT POUCH FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE.

3. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUT, CONTACT AND "PERSONAL" ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA WHILE HE IS ON UNOFFICIAL VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES IS OF INCREASING CONCERN BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL RISKS TO HIS SAFETY. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT SOMOZA HAS LONG MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES WITH THE ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY IN MIAMI. EARLIER THIS MONTH, HE PUBLICALLY DECLARED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-CASTRO STRUGGLE AND ALLEGEDLY THREATENED TO TRAIN ANTI-CASTRO GUERRILLAS IF CASTRO CONTINUED TO SUPPORT TERRORISM IN NICARAGUA. AS A RESULT, SOMOZA MAY NOW BE EXPOSED TO GREATER PERSONAL SECURITY HAZARDS THAN BEFORE, PARTICULARLY IN THE MIAMI AREA WHERE PRO-CASTRO AGENTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ACTIVE. THESE RISKS ARE EVEN GREATER, OF COURSE, IN THE ABSENCE OF U.S. SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
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WISH TO MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES AND TAKE ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION.

4. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT SOMOZA'S
FORTHCOMING TRIP AS SOON AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
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NNN

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